

SARASOTA MEMORIAL
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NEWS RELEASE

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North Port Ambulance funded by \$422,218 grant from Healthcare Foundation

SARASOTA – Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc.’s board of trustees recently awarded a grant of \$422,218 to totally fund an ambulance for Sarasota Memorial Health Care System’s (SMHCS) new free-standing emergency room in North Port, due to open Sept. 1, 2009.

Based full-time at the North Port ER, the ambulance will be customized to serve both adult and pediatric patients. It will provide critical care interventions and carry up to two patients.

It will take several months to build the specially outfitted ambulance. Until then, SMHCS will station its cardiac ambulance, previously funded by the Healthcare Foundation, in North Port full-time.

“Our trustees realized the need for an ambulance to assist our south county neighbors and found a way to make it a reality,” states Alexandra Quarles, CFRE, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc. president, CEO and trustee. “We are proud that \$28,903 of the \$422,218 grant was provided by funds raised by the Employees Partners in Caring (EPIC) campaign at the hospital. It shows how much SMHCS employees care about and support their institution and community.”

This ambulance will be the fourth emergency transport vehicle provided by the Healthcare Foundation. Previously funded were two Maternal-Neonatal Intensive Care Transport Units for at-risk expectant mothers and babies, and the Cardiac Mobile Intensive Care Unit to transport patients from outlying community hospitals in the region to SMHCS for cardiac and critical care services.

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Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to improve the delivery of healthcare for the Sarasota area through the acquisition and utilization of philanthropic funds. Since 1976, the Foundation has awarded **\$36 million** to support patient care, research, education, state-of-the-art medical technology, and facilities.

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